

SENATE RESEARCH COMMITTEE

MINUTES

**Meeting of Friday, April 30, 1993
Room BC-110, 14:00**

Present: P. Bird, T. Bui (Chair), U. De Brentani, A.B. Ibrahim, P. Lightbown, K. Lipke, E. Loo (recording secretary), D. Markiewicz, P. Shizgal, C. Suen, T. Sankar, A. Williams

Absent: S. Chowdhury, A. Homzy, C. Nero, K. Thulasiraman, A. Zaidi

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:10 p.m.

1. Approval of Agenda.

The Chair proposed to move item 7(a) to item 7(c) due to the fact that Dr. Ibrahim will arrive late.

The agenda was approved unanimously by the Committee.

2. Approval of Minutes.

The Chair pointed out that there are a few changes in paragraphs 2 and 3 of page 4 of the minutes which should read as follows:

The discussions followed are summarised in a memo prepared by Dr. Shizgal for the Senate Research Committee for presentation to SCAPP:

(i) «The Committee recognises

(iv) The practice of restricting ... new initiatives is required.»

The complete text of Dr. Shizgal's comments on behalf of the committee to SCAPP is attached.

The minutes for the meeting of March 26 has been approved.

3. Business arising from Minutes

None.

4. Report of the Chair

Chair noted that there is now a short list of 4 candidates for the search of Associate Director of ORS. The Committee will be interviewing the candidates in the next two weeks, hopefully they will be able to appoint the Associate Director of ORS by June 1st.

In answering to a question, the Chair informed the committee that the interviews will be carried by members of the Advisory Committee which consists of himself as Chair, Vishwanath Baba from Commerce, Kathryn Lipke from Fine Arts, Lisa Serbin from Arts & Science, Ted Stathopoulos from Engineering and Computer Science, Georgios Vatisstas from School of Graduate Studies and Audrey Williams from Office of Research Services, and Dr. Rose Sheinin who has expressed an interest in attending the interviews.

On behalf of members of the Committee, the Chair thanked P. Shizgal for his preparation of the SRC response to the Provisional Budget. The committee was also informed that the Provisional Budget has been revised because of the cut of about \$3.6 M announced by the Quebec Government in April. A copy of the Revised Provisional Budget will be sent to the members.

5. Report of the Director, Office of Research Services

Ms. Williams informed the Committee of the following

- 1) SSHRC results have been received, 60 applications were submitted, twenty have been awarded and 19 received a 4A rating. (recommended but not supported for lack of funds)
- 2) FCAR Centre Grants: 3 centres have been renewed for a 3-year period, two of these have received a grant of 'redressement', i.e. they must address the concerns of the committee if they wish to receive further grants. One centre grant received the 5th instalment.
- 3) FCAR Team Grant: 22 applications have been sent out, only 6 have been received. The success rate is 27% vs. 58% last year.
- (4) ORS are in the process of working on the FRDP Targeted Grants and have received 14 applications.

De Brentani stated that there are a number of faculty members who are not aware of the FRDP Targeted Programme.

Ms. Williams remarked that these grants are advertised in Thursday Reports, Newsletters and notices are sent to all the Chairs, and that workshops are held regarding FRDP.

5. Report of the Director, Office of Research Services

Questions were raised about the Dean's or department Chair's responsibility for determining an applicant's eligibility in the application form.

After much discussions, the Chair made the following statements:

- o The question of Eligibility in the form is merely to determine whether the applicant is a full-time faculty member.
- o It is clear that the intention of FRDP Targeted Grants is to give to:
 - people who have experienced a hiatus in their careers as researchers and wish to get back in the research stream.
 - people who are active researchers but wish to reorient significantly their area of research, the problem here is with the interpretation.
- o The reviewers should be able to determine whether the project is a reorientation or simply a project out of the main stream.

6. Question Period

None

7. b) Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIAR), The Institute - Its People and its Programs.

The Chair informed the Committee that last Tuesday, he had a meeting with Dr. P. Kenniff, Dr. Fraser Mustard, President of CIAR and Dr. Marc Renaud, Vice-President of CIAR and President of Conseil Québécois de la Recherche Sociale. In this meeting, Dr. Mustard remarked that he would like to see stronger participation of Quebec universities, more emphasis on interdisciplinary research cutting across different sub-disciplines such human development, population health, etc.

Shizgal noted that Concordia has quite a number of areas of interest to them, and asked the Chair how he proposes to draft the list of names of researchers.

Chair stated he will be meeting Dr. Renaud in two weeks to discuss the specifics. He is looking for suggestions through the Deans and Associate Deans of Research of the Faculty of Arts & Science and Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science. He would like to have a meeting with Dr. Renaud and the top researchers of Concordia University.

Questions were asked about the implication of the different types of memberships, Fellows, Scholars and Associates. Are they going to be like the other Fellowships such as Canada Council, Killam Fellowships ...

7. b) Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIAR), The Institute - Its People and its Programs.

It was explained that CIAR Fellows get the fellowship under the name of the donor, part of the money are for travel, plus they have a reduction of teaching load.

7. c) Policy regarding appropriate use Computer and Communications Services in Concordia.

Chair stated that he has spoken with Dr. J. Fearnley and was informed that this document is at a draft stage. Chair suggested that this document should be tabled for a future meeting.

7. a) Procedural Guidelines for Periodic Appraisal of Research Centres

Chair stated that an Ad-hoc committee was set-up consisting of Dr. A.B. Ibrahim, Dr. P. Shizgal, Dr. C. Suen and himself to develop guidelines for the periodic appraisal of existing research centres taking into consideration two previous documents: «Guidelines for Senate Evaluation of University Research Centres (US-89-2-D4)» and «Senate Policies and Procedures for the Establishment of Research Centres at Concordia University (US-90-10-D19)». To that effect a document «Procedural Guidelines for Periodic Appraisal of Research Centres» has been developed to facilitate the process of periodical appraisal of Research Centres. The Chair asked Dr. Ibrahim to summarise the main points of this document.

During the course of discussion the question of how to deal with Centres which have not been approved by the Board of Governors was raised.

Suggestions were made and the revised document will be tabled at the next meeting.

8. For information only:

- a. Copy of Memo from Dr. Peter Shizgal to Dr. Rose Sheinin, re: 1993-1994 Provisional Operating Budget.
- b. Copy of letter from Robert Rousseau of Ministère des Affaires internationales, re: Visit of the Japanese delegation.

9. Varia

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.